

CLASSIFICATION SECRET  
 Approved For Release 2005/07/13 : CIA-RDP80-00810A002600150008-9

COUNTRY East Germany 25X1 REPORT 25X1

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

25X1

EVALUATION   PLACE OBTAINED   25X1

DATE OF CONTENT   25X1

DATE OBTAINED   PREPARED 23 September 1953

REFERENCES   25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)  

REMARKS  

25X1

- 25X1   1. On 7 August 1953, a train of 8 boxcars and 14 flatcars loaded with billeting equipment, motor vehicles and air force personnel left Koethen airfield. Additional air force rail shipments left the field between 10 and 14 August 1953.
- 25X1   2. At 7 a.m. on 10 August,   no aircraft in front of the closed hangars or in the aircraft revetments at the field. At 7:45 and again at 8:30 a.m. aircraft were being pulled out of the Western hangar and from one of the eastern hangars respectively. Between 9:10 and 9:15 a.m., the radar sets were observed in operation. At the same time two vapor trails were seen at a high altitude. At 10 a.m., a total of 21 jet fighters were seen parked in front of the eastern hangars. At 1:50 p.m., 6 jet fighters were towed from the western hangar to the take-off point. The aircraft took off and flew a circle over the field and then taxied back to the hangar. At 2:15 p.m., a two-seater single-engine low-wing monoplane, which had been parked in front of the western hangar, took off and flew a circle over the installation. Flying was discontinued because of cross winds. From 10 through 18 August, there was almost no air activity at the field. This was probably due to poor visibility. There was also no night flying observed. On 19 August, 16 jet fighters were observed parked in front of the eastern hangars. The radar set was in operation. There was no air activity. On the morning of 21 August, the western hangar was observed to be open and was empty. At 7:30 a.m., 11 jet fighters, 3 single-engine aircraft and 1 biplane left the eastern hangars. After 8 a.m., individual aircraft made 30-minute flights above the clouds. Weather was 10/10 overcast at an altitude of about 1,200 meters, and the visibility was 3 to 4 km. The radar set was not in operation. Aircraft were observed flying over the approach beacons and performing perfect bad weather landings.   When visibility improved, two UMiG-15s equipped with auxiliary fuel tanks were pulled out of one of the eastern hangars and subsequently practiced flying until 11:40 a.m., when the air activity was suspended, probably due to increasing force of cross winds. The barracks installation at the airfield appeared to be less heavily occupied than previously.
- 25X1   3. On 10 August, 4 trucks   were being utilized for the driving school.
- 25X1   4. At 9 a.m. on 14 August, 5 jet fighters were observed in front of the eastern hangars of the field. The Kniferest radar set of type SCR-602 and a second antenna tower were seen at their previous locations. After 10:30 a.m., 9 jet fighters

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/

SECRET/

- 2 -

25X1

25X1

[redacted] practiced individual flying.  
Two radio stations were seen at the eastern extension of the runway.

25X1

5. [redacted] No flying was observed at the field between 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.. Seventeen twin-engine aircraft crossed over the field and headed east. Except for firing practices with carbines no training activities were observed at the field.

25X1

1. [redacted] Comment. These shipments were connected with the transfer of a fighter regiment from Koethen to Welzow. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

2. [redacted] Comment. Koethen airfield is occupied by a fighter regiment equipped with about 30 MiG-15s. The status of training reached by the pilots of the regiment is apparently good. Noteworthy is the fact that flying was suspended when cross winds became apparent at the field. [redacted] aircraft

25X1

25X1

[redacted] previously observed at Zerbst and Morseburg.

SECRET